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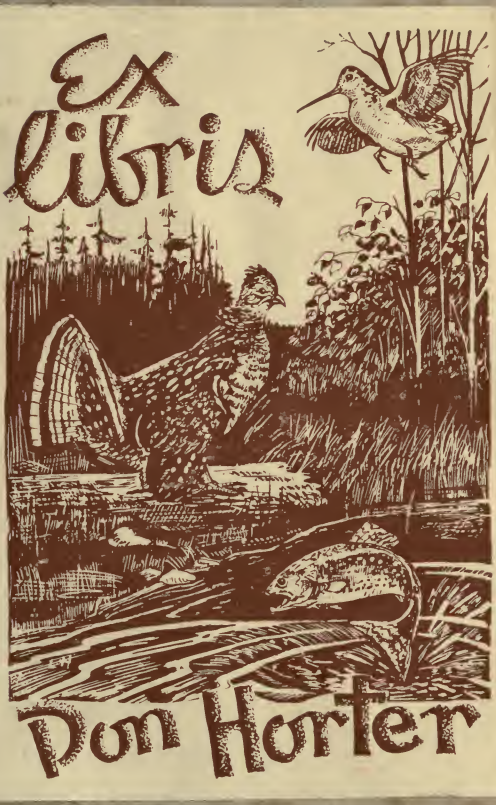
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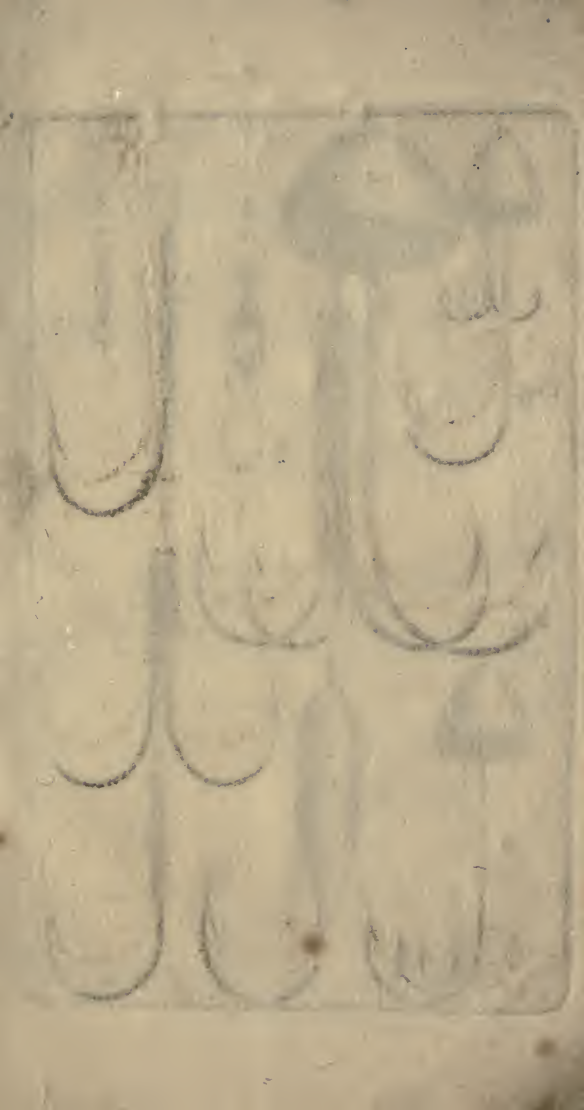

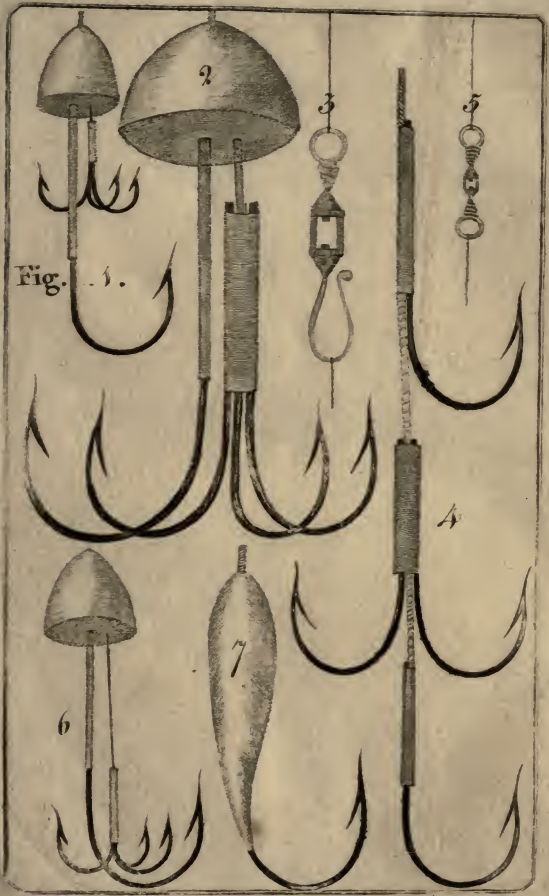
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THE

MODERN ANGLER,

BEING A

PRACTICAL TREATISE

ON THE

ART OF *FISHING*, *&c.*

IN A

SERIES OF LETTERS TO A FRIEND,

Salter, Robert

When with his lively Ray the potent Sun
Has pierc'd the Streams, and rous'd the finny Race,
Then, issuing cheerful, to thy Sport repair.

Thompson's Seasons.

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S26

THE

MODERN ANGLER.

LETTER I.

To the Rev. MORGAN PRYSE.

Dear Sir,

I NOT only comply with your requeſt, but ſhall derive much pleaſure in imparting to you the knowledge I have obtained in the courſe of twenty years practice in the art of angling, during the early part of which, the frequent opportunities I have met with of collecting information from many of the moſt experienced of that time, induced

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me to commit their hints to writing, not with any intention of making them public, but merely to render them conducive to my own amuſement. The moſt delightful part of the art being ſtill enveloped in obſcurities that are ſufficient to deter a young artiſt from indulging in an amuſement apparently ſo difficult, I ſhall, at your ſolicitation, arrange thoſe hints in the beſt manner in my power, to convey to you the moſt uſeful information on the ſubject. With thoſe which ſucceſsful practice has proved to be well adviſed, I ſhall unite every uſeful diſcovery that has been acquired by my own obſervation.

Without troubling you with any tedious digreſſions, or uſeleſs recitals, I ſhall endeavour to remove the apparent difficulties in the art of Fly-fiſhing, by explaining a pretended *ſecret*, the poſſeſſion of which is ſo much boaſted of by ſome anglers whoſe vanity would lead them to be placed above competition, but which in reality is nothing more than a general knowledge

knowledge acquired by obſervation, how to vary or change their flies according to the ſeaſon, the hour of the day, or the ſtate of the water they fiſh upon. This is the great and mighty *ſecret*, and I leave it to them to enjoy the deluſion.

If in the courſe of my communication the hints I give ſhall be found by your future experience worthy adoption, it will be an ample gratification to me to hear that you have participated in the enjoyment of them.

The difficulties of procuring and preparing materials for fly-making you will find in a great meaſure removed, as I deem it quite unneceſſary to lead you far from home to provide them.

The art of pike and trout-trolling, which has hitherto been ſo little noticed, though in point of amuſement ſcarcely excelled by fly-fiſhing, I ſhall carefully explain, and annex a plate to direct the ſize of your hooks, and give, to the beſt

of my power, ſuch other information as may enable you to become a complete and a fair angler.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble Servant,

ROBERT SALTER.

LETTER

LETTER II.

To ***** ******.

Dear Sir,

Before I proceed to inſtruct you in the different methods of angling, I conceive it to be highly neceſſary that you become ſomewhat acquainted with the diſpoſitions and appetites of the inhabitants of that element which is to be the ſcene of your future amuſement. I ſhall therefore deſcribe only ſuch fiſhes that are worth an angler's notice, and begin alphabetically with the

BLEAK.

ALBURNUS, of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. A ſmall fiſh that ſeldom exceeds five inches; is found in moſt of the large rivers, has large bright ſcales, ſpawns in March, is a lively fiſh, and affords much diverſion in the hot months, in deep, ſtill water, generally feeding near the ſurface, where

where they will take almoſt any ſmall fly that is caſt for them; and are good baits for the pike.

BREAM.

Brama; of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. A very deep, but thin fiſh, the ſcales remarkably large, the rays of the fins black, are moſtly bred in pools, ſwim and feed in ſhoals, which ſocial diſpoſition is technically termed gregarious, they ſeldom exceed three pounds weight. The fleſh is inſipid and very little eſteemed; ſpawns in June, muſt be angled for at the bottom of the deepeſt part of the pool with either worms, maggots, or ſtewed malt. If you bait the ſpot a few days before you fiſh your ſport will be greatly encreaſed.

The mornings till ten, and evenings from about ſix o'clock will generally be found the beſt time to angle for them in ſummer.

CARP.

CARP.

CYPRINUS; of the genus of *malacopterygii*. The order of cyprinus contains nineteen ſpecies, the diſtinguiſhing characters of which are, according to Artedi, the branchioſtege membrane on each ſide contains three ſmall bones; the mouth is toothleſs except two ſerrated bones that are placed near the orifice of the ſtomach, which ſerves inſtead of teeth for retaining their food, from whence the term leather-mouthed fiſh is derived.

Carp are moſtly bred in pools, though ſometimes found in the deep, ſtill parts of rivers, are deep-bodied, and thick, often grow to ſixteen pounds weight; the ſcales are large, and yellow on the ſides, the back is aſh-colour; the head ſmall, with a ſingle barb at each corner of the mouth; ſpawn in July, are in ſeaſon from September to May, and are greatly eſteemed. Will live long out of their element, if taken after ſun-ſetting in the ſummer, or in mild weather in the winter, and may be removed alive in ſafety

to

to a great diſtance, packed with clean wheat or oat ſtraw, in a baſket or cart, which is a far better method of conveyance for ſtoring waters, than in a water barrel, as large fiſh by the agitation of the water, will be bruiſed againſt the ſides of the veſſel.

Being a ſubtle and wary fiſh, great attention ſhould be obſerved in preparing your tackle and baits. The ſmall ones generally bite eagerly.

In open water you muſt angle for them near the bottom, but at midwater among weeds. Uſe a ſmall float, and make your tackle as fine as you dare truſt it. They will bite at all hours, except in the middle of hot days. Their baits I ſhall deſcribe when treating on that head.

CHUB.

CEPHALUS; of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. When full grown weighs about eight pounds; is found in moſt large rivers: in

in form he much reſembles a trout, excepting his head, which is broader and much ſhorter, his ſcales are large and bright, the belly-fins red, ſpawns in May, and feeds in ſhoals. The chub takes all the baits that the trout is fond of in the ſummer, and in the cold months, others that will be found deſcribed in their proper places.

From the beginning of May to the end of September he is a ſoft and inſipid fiſh, but in December and January is very little, if any, inferior to a Carp; does not afford the angler ſo much diverſion as the trout, being ſo dull a fiſh, that when once hooked is ſoon tired.

DARE or DACE.

Leuciscus; of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. A fiſh that greatly reſembles a ſmall chub, but is formed much finer at the head; found in moſt rivers, is ſeldom known to weigh above half a pound, ſpawns in March, ſwims in ſhoals, and

from

from about a fortnight after the ſpawning ſeaſon takes the ſame flies as the trout. Is a ſoft and inſipid fiſh in ſummer, but in the cold months is much better.

EEL.

Anguilla; of the ſpecies of *muræna*. The branchioſtege membrane on each ſide contains ten ſlender and curved bones; has a long ſmooth ſlender body, covered with a ſtrong ſkin, without ſcales; having but three fins, two pectoral, and a ſingle back fin, which beginning at ſome diſtance from the head, runs along the back to the tail, and returns again underneath as far as the anus.

Eels are found in all our rivers and moſt of the pools, and will ſometimes weigh ſix pounds; they vary in colour from a ſooty hue to a light olive green, and thoſe that are diſtinguiſhed by their white bellies and aſh-colored backs are called ſilver eels. About the middle of March they firſt appear, and being very voracious

voracious, devour every thing within their power, ſuch as ſmall gudgeons, loaches, minnows, miller's-thumbs, worms, &c. &c. and about the latter end of September retire to hollow banks, roots of trees, mud, weeds, or any other place that will afford them protection in this torpid ſtate, as they are not known to take any bait until March.

There is an opinion exiſting that all eels go to the ſea every Michaelmas, and return again in the ſpring, but that I am convinced is a miſtaken one. Naturaliſts have not yet decided when, or how they ſpawn: ſome of them inform us they are viviparous, and others that they are oviparous; Ariſtotle's opinion was, there is no difference of ſex in eels, but that they are "promiſcuouſly generated "in mud banks from ſlime," &c. and many other tales equally curious are told, but the doctrine of equivocal generation being now ſo univerſally exploded, there is no doubt, that all animals are produced by the copulation of parents

parents like themſelves, which muſt ſatisfy you that although the ſeaſon of their propagation is not yet aſcertained, that is not a reaſon ſufficient to deny the exiſtence of it. In rivers the eel bites moſt freely when the water is diſcolored, and requires ſtrong tackle.

FLOUNDER.

PASSER FLUVIATILIS. A well known broad, flat fiſh, found in all the rivers that have an immediate communication with the ſea; ſeldom exceeds three pounds weight, are without ſcales, their fleſh firm and much eſteemed; ſpawn in May, and ſwim in ſhoals; bite freely at all hours of the day, but particularly ſo on the riſe of the water, taking any ſmall worm that is caſt for them near the bottom.

Flounders are profitable fiſh to ſtock ponds with, as they ſoon grow fat, and will live many hours out of the water, conſequently may be carried to a great diſtance

diſtance, but will not breed when confined.

GRAYLING.

THYMALLUS; of the ſpecies of *Salmo*. A river fiſh that in figure nearly reſembles the dace, but is rather finer at the noſe and near the tail, which is much forked; are rarely ſeen above four pounds weight, ſpawn in April, and are in the greateſt perfection in October, at which time they are the only kind worthy a fly-fiſher's notice, and their flavor is highly eſteemed. The ſcales are rather large which in the ſummer months are bright, divided by lateral lines, interſperſed with black ſpots, the poſterior dorſal fin is adipoſe. At the approach of the cold ſeaſon their backs become darker, and the ſides and gills loſe their brightneſs, become clouded with brown ſhades, and, contrary to all other fiſh, are leaſt beautiful when moſt in ſeaſon.

In the ſummer they take all the flies that the trout are fond of, and delight

in the ſame ſtreams, but in September retire in ſhoals to the lower end of ſtill bays, juſt where the water becomes ſhallow, where they will take a fly at the top, but if you angle below the ſurface it ſhould be as near to the bottom as poſſible, with a maggot, waſp-grub, or ſmall red worm.

GUDGEON.

Of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. A ſmall river fiſh about five inches long, has large bright ſcales interſperſed with black ſpots, ſmall head, a ſingle barb at each corner of the mouth, is a good flavored fiſh, but very bony; ſpawns in May, is found invariably in ſhoals, and muſt be angled for near the bottom with fine tackle baited with ſmall worms or maggots.

LOACH, OR GROUNDLING.

COBITIS; of the genus of *malacopterygii*: diſtinguiſhed by having ſoft fins that are not prickly. A ſmall fiſh that rarely exceeds three inches in length, without

without ſcales, has three barbs at the mouth; ſpawns in April, and never moves far from the bottom, unleſs when diſturbed, where they may be taken with a ſmall worm, maggot, or codbait.

MILLER's THUMB.

Cottus; of the genus of *acanthopterygii*: diſtinguiſhed by having ſix oſſicles in the branchioſtege membrane. The head is prickly and broader than the body, which ſeldom exceeds three inches in length, a diſproportion which forms a very unpleaſant appearance; ſpawns in April, is found in gravelly brooks and rivers, always at the bottom, and chiefly under large ſtones, where they may be eaſily taken with ſmall worms, &c.

MINNOW.

Of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. A ſmall fiſh about three inches long, has ſmall ſcales, ſpawns in May, bites freely all hours of the day about midwater, at ſmall worms, maggots, codbaits, &c.

moſtly frequenting eddies, where they are generally found in ſhoals.

My principal reaſon for mentioning the minnow, loach, and miller's thumb, was to inform you how you may ſupply yourſelf with baits for trout-trolling.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER III.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

PEARCH.

PERCA; of the genus of *thoracici*. The diſtinguiſhing characters are, the branchioſtege membrane contains ſeven bones, and the ventral fins placed under the pectoral:

The pearch is a delicate eating fiſh, moſtly bred in pools, but often found in the deep parts of large rivers; hog-backed, on which are placed two fins, the rays of the dorſal are very ſtrong and ſharp. Notwithſtanding the defence this formidable weapon may enable them to make, the pike will as eagerly take them as any other ſmall fiſh. The poſterior fin is extremely ſoft and flexible, the pectoral and ventral fins red; they have five dark ſhades that croſs their

backs to the middle of their ſides, the ſcales are large, firm, and ſerrated, the mouth rather ſmall, and their jaws rough; ſeldom exceeding five pounds in weight; ſpawn in May, ſoon after which ſeaſon they afford great diverſion from five o'clock in the morning until nine, and from three in the afternoon until ſunſet, but in winter the middle of the day is the proper time to angle for them.

The beſt baits in ſummer are large worms, minnows, and ſmall fry, when you bait with either of the latter, put your hook under the back fin, and it will remain alive a long time. In the winter they take codbaits, maggots, and paſte; generally feed in ſhoals, and muſt be angled for about midwater with ſtrong tackle and a large float, they do not ſwallow the bait quick, therefore ſome time muſt be given them before you ſtrike.

PIKE.

PIKE.

Lucius esox; of the genus of *abdominales:* the diſtinguiſhing character is the ventral fins being placed behind the pectoral. A very fierce and ravenous fiſh, whoſe body is rather long, the head broad and flat, terminating in the form of a duck's beak, the mouth remarkably wide, the upper and lower jaws armed with a tripple row of ſtrong and ſharp teeth, nor does the tongue, which is large and flat, appear leſs terrible, it being covered with ſtrong retaining teeth quite to the orifice of the ſtomach, the back appears of a greeniſh caſt irregularly ſhaded with yellow ſtripes, which have, when they are firſt taken, a beautiful appearance, the ſhades continue down the ſides, but are leſs diſtinct, and the dorſal fin is placed low on the back.

The pike ſpawn in March, at which ſeaſon they retire to weeds, ditches, or any other quiet place, where if not diſturbed they will continue a week

or ten days, which grants a ſhort reſpite to the ſcaly race, for during that time they will not take any bait. They are remarkable for longevity, and many have been caught above thirty pounds weight.

ROACH.

CARASSIUS; of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. A fiſh bred in rivers and ponds, formed very deep but thin, ſeldom exceeds a pound and half weight, the ſcales are large and bright, head ſmall, large eyes and the iris red; ſpawns in May, but are not in ſeaſon until September, from which time to April they are good fiſh.

They take ſmall worms, paſtes, and maggots under water, but never riſe at a fly.

SALMON.

SALMO; of the genus of *malacopterygii*. The branchioſtege membrane on each ſide contains twelve bones. The ſalmon is a fiſh univerſally and deſervedly in high eſtimation,

eſtimation, bred in freſh water, but ſpend much of their time in the ſea; beautifully formed, ſharp at the noſe, and broadeſt at the dorſal fin, from whence they gradually become finer towards the tail, which is forked; the poſterior fin is adipoſe, their teeth are ſtrong though not numerous; are in the greateſt perfection from January to July, at which time their backs are aſh-color, belly and ſides delicately white interſperſed with black ſpots, and their ſcales moderately large. As they go out of ſeaſon their ſpots gradually become red, the gill-covers red, brown, and yellow, forming an unhealthy appearance, and the ſides and belly become irregularly clouded with duſky ſhades.

As rivers differ ſome weeks in their ſeaſons all ſalmon do not go out at the ſame time; they generally ſpawn in November, the fry from which in March following are about five inches long, at which time, they being lively fiſh afford the angler great diverſion, with ſmall

ſmall flies, worms, codbaits, and maggots.

The ſalmon are reſtleſs fiſh, never remaining long in one place. As ſoon as the fry are grown ſtrong enough to attempt a removal, which is generally about the middle of April, they take the earlieſt opportunity that high water affords to make their firſt excurſion to the ſea, and in Auguſt following return to the rivers, having grown in that ſhort time to one or two pounds weight each.

The difficulties which they will ſurmount as their ſpawning ſeaſon approaches to get up to the tops of rivers, is aſtoniſhing, and their efforts to get over weirs and cataracts almoſt incredible. Having arrived in ſhallow water they there meet their greateſt foe and become an eaſy prey to every lurking poacher, who, not regarding their worthleſs condition, with nets, ſpears, and fires attack, and deſtroy them by day and night

night, which in ſome rivers nearly exterminates the ſpecies.

I have read of their having been caught in "*baſkets tied to the ends of poles*," and of "*women catching them in their aprons*," and theſe marvellous tales are ſtill told ſeriouſly, but am convinced I need not point out the abſurdity of them.

Salmon have been caught above forty pounds weight, but how long they are attaining that ſize, is, I believe, impoſſible to determine, as they muſt return to the ſalt water ſoon after ſpawning, or they will pine and die.

SAMLET, OR BRANLIN.

SALMULUS; of the ſpecies of *ſalmo*. A ſmall fiſh, highly eſteemed, rarely exceeds ſix inches in length, is found in all rivers where ſalmon go up to ſpawn, but never in any other, yet are clearly different fiſh, as they never quit the freſh water. Very much reſemble ſmall trout, except their color, having

five

five dark ſhades that croſs their backs, with two red ſpots in each; their belly and ſides white; the poſterior fin adipoſe; ſpawn in October, and are in ſeaſon from March to September. They eagerly take all the ſmall baits that the trout is partial to, frequent the moſt rapid ſtreams, and afford the angler great diverſion.

TENCH.

TINCA; of the ſpecies of *cyprinus*. Is rarely found in rivers, being ſo eaſily caught with nets, that they have but little chance of acquiring a good ſize there, but when bred in pools that are protected from the depredation of poachers by the authority of the owners, they often grow to ſix or ſeven pounds weight. Their form is ſhort, deep, and thick, with ſmall ſcales, the back aſh, the belly and the ſides gold color; they are greatly and deſervedly eſteemed, being in flavor inferior to none.

The tench was formerly ſtiled the *Phyſician*

ſician of fiſhes, and the opinion is handed down to the preſent day, of a ſuppoſed "natural balſam which he carries about "him, that will cure both himſelf and "others." I cannot perſuade myſelf to give ſuch an opinion a ſerious thought, unleſs his commentators will either prove it by analyſis, or produce his *diploma*. Every different ſpecies being enemies to each other, it cannot be ſuppoſed that a fiſh ſo timid as the tench, would paſſively admit the approach of the pike, for even the gregarious kinds will not endure a familiarity with each other at any time except in the ſpawning ſeaſon.

The tench ſpawn in July, and are in ſeaſon from Auguſt to June. Muſt be angled for near the bottom, where they bite freely at all the ſmall baits that you will find directed for pool-fiſhing.

TROUT.

TRUTTA; of the ſpecies of *malacopterygii*. A fiſh well known in almoſt every river in Great Britain. Thoſe that are

caught in rapid ſtreams generally cut white, but thoſe that are taken in ſlow, deep rivers, eſpecially when they run through boggy or turbury lands, are red as ſalmon, which fiſh they reſemble more than any other in ſhape. Their backs are aſh-color, the poſterior fin adipoſe, the ſides yellow, beautifully decorated with red ſpots when in ſeaſon, which is from March to September, and in ſome rivers till October. The mouth is large, and armed with a great number of teeth; ſpawn in November, and as that ſeaſon approaches, like the ſalmon, make the greateſt efforts to gain the ſource of the river, after which ſeaſon they ſpeedily return, but not to ſport in the ſtreams, as from that time until February they paſs their time in ſolitude in the moſt retired places they can find, lean, unſavory, and unwholeſome, ſeldom can be ſeen, and a prey to vermin* that ſeem to grow on their ſides, in numbers incalculable. Thus paſſes nearly one fourth of his exiſtence "the monarch of the

* The *Pediculus Aquaticus*

"brook"

"brook," until roused form his torpor by the appearance of returning spring, he quits his dreary abode, resumes his former haunts, and, with renovated vigor, prefers the most rapid streams to feed in, inviting you to enjoy your leasure hours in an amusement that is the most delightful and rational of all the rural recreations.

Before I conclude, it is necessary to inform you that both river and pool fishes often will vary a fortnight in their spawning seasons, consequently the best method of describing it, is, to ascertain as nearly as possible the medium.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER IV.

To ***** *******

Dear Sir,

Having enumerated all the river and pool fiſhes I am acquainted with, that are worth your attention, I ſhall next proceed to deſcribe to you the moſt pleaſant methods of making them contribute to your diverſion.

Before I begin a catalogue of baits, ſome attention ſhould be paid to the preparation of your tackle. The ſtructure of your rod requires particular attention, eſpecially for fly fiſhing, conſequently it claims my firſt notice; the length of which does not depend upon the breadth of the river where it is to be uſed; a rod twelve feet long will caſt a fly-line of fourteen yards, unleſs the wind be very unfavorable, but if it is to carry a reel-line, fourteen feet are

are not too much. I adviſe you never to encumber yourſelf with an unneceſſary weight of wood, as the great advantage of a light rod is, that of having it in your power to uſe it with either hand, which will enable you to caſt your fly under buſhes, hollow banks, &c. without endangering your tackle, for near thoſe places the largeſt trout are generally found. The ſhorter the joints are when taken to pieces, the more portable it is of courſe, but the fewer joints are in it the better it will open a fly-line.

The lower part may be made of any wood that is tough and ſtraight grained, but in forming the upper part too much attention cannot be paid. As our own country produces variety of wood that will make good tops, and local ſituations produce advocates for each, I ſhall mention all the kinds that I am acquainted with; they ſhould be cut about Chriſtmas, and if placed in the open air to ſeaſon for twelve months, they will be the better for uſe; (viz.) elder, holly,

mountain-aſh, and hip-briar; but the hickary which we import from America far excels either of them, nor is it ſurpaſſed by any wood that I know, except the bamboo or hollow cane, which we receive from the Weſt Indies. In making a top of the latter, care ſhould be taken to preſerve the outſide, that being the moſt claſtic part of it.

I cannot quit this ſubject without adviſing you to avoid a cuſtom that is ſo prevalent, of loading top rods with eight or ten inches of whalebone; why ſuch a whim became adopted I am at a loſs to tell, and that ſo many intelligent anglers continue to follow it, is ſtill more aſtoniſhing; a good top rod ſhould be light and claſtic, whereas whalebone is dull, heavy, and much too flexible.

As moiſture is at all times deſtructive to wood, it is neceſſary to guard againſt its influence on your rod as much as poſſible; although a ſhower of rain will not quite ſpoil it, unleſs it is protected

tected by a varniſh it may ſoon be deprived of its elaſticity, which is the chief requiſite of a good fly-rod.

There are many methods practiſed of preparing varniſh, but the beſt that I have experinced is the following: Half an ounce of ſhell-lac, and half an ounce of ſeed-lac, powdered fine in a mortar, put them in ſeperate vials, with half a pint of good ſpirits of wine in each, place them in a ſand heat to diſſolve; during the proceſs, ſhake the vials often. When each is diſſolved, mix them together in a larger bottle, with half an ounce of gum benjamin; encreaſe the heat and the dregs will ſubſide. Then warm the wood, and with a camel's-hair bruſh apply that part of the varniſh which is become fine; the third coat will remain on the ſurface, and ſecurely protect the rod from injury.

Rods for bobbing with natural flies, ſhould be made light, and at leaſt fifteen

teen feet long, which will enable you to keep yourſelf ſufficiently out of ſight of the fiſh.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER V.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

The next article that preſents itſelf is your line, which muſt be made taper from the top, or it cannot be uſed with pleaſure; a line twelve yards long, ſhould have about thirty-ſix hairs at the top, and gradually decreaſe to four or five at the bottom; to which it is uſual to fix from one to three yards of indian weed, or ſilk-worm gut, the former I prefer for this purpoſe, becauſe it will endure the water much longer than the latter.

On large ſtreams it is not unuſual to fiſh with three, or ſometimes four flies at the ſame time; when you uſe more than one, be careful to fix them at leaſt two feet from each other.

The

The drop flies ſhould be tied to ſhort links, with a loop at each to faſten it on the line; the firſt drop ſhould not be more than two inches long, the ſecond three and a half, and the third five inches; if this hint is attended to, it will enable you to fiſh much finer than if they are all made the ſame length, as from the inclined poſition of the line, not an inch of it need touch the water, and each fly will float alike upon the ſurface.

When drop flies are uſed, loops to them cannot be diſpenſed with, but many anglers uſe a loop at the end of their line to receive another at the link that the point fly is tied to, which is a method I cannot too much condemn, as an idle and ſlovenly one, for be aſſured, that proper attention in preparing your tackle neat, and your knots ſmall, will contribute much towards preventing the numerous ſhort riſes that are frequently experienced by the niceſt anglers.

I have heard ſome ingenious anglers contend for the preference that ſtained or colored ſilk-worm gut is entitled to, which is an opinion that I cannot agree with, and ſhall take this opportunity of explaining my reaſon for it.

The color of gut when imported, is I believe, more difficult to be diſtinguiſhed in the medium between water and light, than any other that has hitherto been ſubſtituted; but as proof is more perſuaſive than precept, boil the outſide ſhells or leaves of walnuts in allum water, and when cold, put into it your gut, and it will in a ſhort time become brown. Boil a few chips of log wood in allum water, and it will ſtain the gut blue. Then put a ſmall piece of each color, with one that is unſtained, into an half pint tumbler of water, place it in the upper part of a window while the ſun ſhines on it, and gradually retire, keeping your eye on the glaſs until one of them diſappears, and then you will be convinced that

that it requires not the aid of philoſophy to decide which color is entitled to the preference.

The choice of hooks being a matter of ſome conſequence in preventing diſappointments after you have raiſed a fiſh; the ſtaple, or ſnake bent, and kirby bent, having each their partiſans, who with equal warmth contend for the preference; I muſt adviſe you never to chuſe a hook whoſe point ſtands outward, as it will often ſcratch a fiſh without laying hold, conſequently you loſe him; for after being pricked, except a grayling, he will not riſe again within two or three hours. If the manufacturers of the ſtaple bent hooks, *could* be perſuaded to make their points ſomewhat ſhorter, and the barbs a trifle wider, than they generally do, they would then, in my opinion, claim a decided preference.

I am, Sir,
Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

Having inſtructed you in my laſt the beſt method I am acquainted with of preparing your tackle, I muſt next inform you what materials are requiſite for fly-making, and how to procure them, (viz.) Hackles plucked from the upper part of the neck of a dun cock in December, obſerving to keep the light and dark ones ſeparate for their different uſes. The ſame fowl that produces the dark dun hackles in December, will in April or May following furniſh you with the grizzle hackle. Such is the effect the air has on theſe feathers, that from March they gradually become paler until September, when they are caſt off; being then a dirty yellow, conſequently unfit for uſe.

The long hackles that grow down his back muſt be ſaved for the ſtone fly. Black cock's hackles ſhould be plucked about December.

The pale red cock produces what for diſtinction I ſhall term the ginger hackle. The dark red cock produces an hackle which is black at the root, and ſometimes, (what is much better for making the marlo buz) a black ſtripe down the middle of it, which latter feather is rather ſcarce.

The white cock's hackle ſhould be plucked about Chriſtmas, as it will receive a better ſtain than if left to grow older. The mealy-grey cock's hackle is white at the points, with a black ſtripe down the middle.

Various uſeful hackles are procured from the dun hen, bittern's and grouſe's necks, partridge's back, the top-not, or creſt of the green plover, and heron's creſt; feathers from a wood pecker's back, the

the back of a brown hen, the back of a pea hen, and woodcock's back; likewiſe feathers from the wings of the partridge, fieldfare, moor hen, ſtarling, landrail, coot, hen blackbird, and thruſh; and the ſoft feathers from the underſide of the woodpigeon's wing. Long feathers from the tails of the cock and hen pheaſant, copper color turkey, landrail, partridge, field-fare, and wren. Orl from the peacock's tail, and the black orl from the oſtrich; the grey feathers of the mallard, the widgeon, and the mallard teal, will each be found ſerviceable for different flies.

Materials proper for dubbing are, the blue fur of a fox, blue rabbit, white rabbit, ſquirrel, water rat, and mole; the fineſt part of badger's and hedgehog's hair; the brown part of a hare's ear, and the red fur from the neck; ſpaniel's fur of the ſame color; otter's fur from his back, light ditto from his belly, the latter ſhould have the long hairs plucked out before it is ſtripped

from the ſkin; black fur that may be procured at the hat-makers, is a good ſubſtitute for the oſtrich's orl; yellow, lemon-color, orange-color, and dark brown worſted, mohair, or camlet; and gold and ſilver twiſt.

Your ſilk is beſt preſerved on a ſlip of card about two inches broad: the moſt uſeful colors are, white, yellow, lemon, orange, lead, and green, but for flies whoſe bodies are light colored, and the materials for making them to remain predominant, the barber's ſilk, is, I believe, unrivalled; it is three fold, and, when divided, ſo ſtrong, that you can ſecurely dreſs a neater fly than with any other I have ever uſed.

There are ſome articles enumerated in the above liſt that you will not find mentioned in the catalogue of flies, one reaſon why I directed ſo many, is, to give you a choice in collecting them, but the principal one is to prevent you ever being at a loſs for materials; when nearly

nearly provided as above, you may in the abſence of thoſe that are deſcribed, ſubſtitute others to ſupply the deficiency.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER VII.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

Being now arrived at that part of the amuſement, which, to excel in, will require your niceſt ſkill, I muſt here inform you, that no preciſe direction can poſſibly be given for the ſize of flies, it depends ſo much on the ſtate of the water you fiſh upon, that you muſt be directed by your own obſervation, in which the following hints may aſſiſt you. Rapid ſtreams, that are not deep, and run over fine gravel, are generally very clear, particularly near the ſource; on ſuch water your fly ſhould be made on a hook No. 9 or 10.—For ſlow deep ſtreams that are generally diſcolored, a fly dreſſed upon a hook No. 5 or 6, is ſeldom too large.

My

My catalogue of flies commences with

The BLUE DUN.

which appears about the beginning of March, and with a little variation in color, that will be noticed in its proper place, may be uſed with great ſucceſs the whole ſeaſon; its wings ſtand upright, are made of the feather of a ſtarling's wing, the body of the blue fur of a fox, mixed with a little yellow camlet; at this time it muſt not be made too light, as it becomes paler as the ſeaſon advances; is now uſed from ten o'clock in the forenoon until two. It is often made with a light dun hackle, inſtead of wings, but if uſed where a large one is required, it ſhould have wings, and a ſmall hackle.

The MARLO BUZ.

Appears, and is now taken about the ſame time as the blue dun. It is a good fly the whole ſeaſon, eſpecially at the clearing of the water after a flood. At its firſt appearance, muſt be made with a pale-red cock's hackle, that is black at the

the root, the body of peacock's orl, but as the ſeaſon advances, the hackle muſt be choſen darker. In bright weather, and clear water, it is often varied with great ſucceſs until the middle of April, with oſtrich's orl, ribbed with ſilver twiſt.

The CAMLET FLY.

Appears about the middle of March, and continues three weeks, it is a ſmall fly, and muſt be uſed only in cold weather; its wings are made of the pale blue feather from the under ſide of the wood-pidgeon's wing, and the body of yellow camlet; it is beſt taken from ten o'clock to two.

The STONE FLY.

Is firſt ſeen early in March, and continues on the water until the middle of June. The general opinion among anglers that it never appears until the middle of April, is a miſtaken one, the reaſon that induces me to be particular in the date, is to remove the error

ror, by ſtating a circumſtance that I have witneſſed: on March the eighth when ſitting by a ſtream to repair my line, I obſerved a ſtone fly crawling upon the gravel, which excited my curioſity ſo far as to make trial of an artificial one, the conſequence of which was, great diverſion from half paſt eleven until one, when the trout ceaſed riſing; it was on a deep ſlow ſtream, that is generally tinged with red turbury water, but I have never found ſo much ſucceſs on rapid ſtreams with it ſo early in the ſeaſon.

This fly is near an inch long, the body is made of the brown fur of a hare's ear, mixed with nearly the ſame quantity of yellow camlet, ribbed with yellow ſilk, the underſide is much paler at the head than tail; it has four wings, which lie flat on its back, that are made of a pea-hen's feather, with a grizzle hackle wrapped twice around under them. Is often made with the grizzle hackle from a cock's back, without

out wings. It is an excellent fly for bobbing on deep ſtreams, with a fine line two yards long, and the hook No. 5.

The MARCH BROWN.

Appears about the middle of March, and continues at leaſt ſix weeks; the wings, which are upright, are made of the ſhaded feather of a partridge's tail, or the feather from the back of a brown hen; the body, of the brown fur of a hare's ear, mixed with a ſmall proportion of lemon-color mohair. On dull ſtreams, where a large one is required, it ſhould have a partridge's hackle wrapped thrice around under the wings. If a ſmall one is uſed as a drop fly, the hackle from a partridge's back is preferable to wings. It will not ariſe fiſh ſo early as the blue dun and marlo buz, conſequently ſhould not at its firſt appearance be uſed before eleven or twelve o'clock.

The COW-DUNG FLY.

Appears early in March, but is ſeldom uſed with ſucceſs until the latter end of the month; it will raiſe fiſh in cold, windy afternoons, until the beginning of May. Is a ſmall fly, of a dirty orange color, the body of which is ſhort and thick, and made of orange color mohair, the wings, which lie flat on its back, of the feather of a partridge's wing, when that is not eaſily procured, a ſmall ginger hackle is a good ſubſtitute.

This fly is not peculiar to the water, neither do I believe it is bred there; being an inſect incapable of ſuſtaining a long flight, the numbers that are beat down by the wind in attempting to croſs the ſtreams, is probably the principal incentive to the trouts' fondneſs for it: ſwarms of them are frequently obſerved in paſture lands about the ordure of that animal from whence its name is derived.

March being the moſt variable month in the ſeaſon for fly-fiſhing, renders it neceſſary to inform you, that the froſts occaſioned by north, or eaſterly winds, will often cauſe a fortnight's difference in the appearance of the flies; therefore in a mild ſeaſon you muſt expect them much earlier than in a cold one; and in a ſouthern latitude earlier than that of a northern.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER VIII.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

At the commencement of April the blue dun muſt be uſed the firſt fly in the morning, and about the middle of the month becomes a good evening fly to the end of July. The ſtone fly ſhould be uſed earlier in the morning and later in the evening as the ſeaſon advances.

About the middle of the month the March brown may be uſed from ten till ſun-ſetting.

The PEACOCK FLY.

Appears early in April, and continues about ſix weeks. It is a good fly in cloudy, warm weather, and will raiſe fiſh almoſt all the day. The body is made of peacock's orl, the wings, which

are nearly upright, of a pea-hen's feather, with a ſmall dark dun hackle wrapped thrice around under them. The wings may be made with the feather of a brown hen, or for droppers, with a dark dun hackle, without wings.

The SAND FLY.

Appears early in April. Too much cannot be ſaid in praiſe of this excellent fly, as from its firſt appearance it may be uſed all hours of the day, until the middle of July. Its wings are made of the feather of a landrail's wing, the body of the brighteſt part of hare's neck, ribbed with orange color ſilk. For ſmall droppers, I prefer a ginger hackle, or the wren's tail formed as an hackle, to wings.

The GRAVEL FLY.

Appears in great numbers about the latter end of April. Its continuance on the water is ſeldom above fourteen days. Though a fly that the trout are remarkably fond of, regular diverſion is rarely met

met with during its appearance, warm weather inviting them to the ſhores in ſwarms, from whence the gentleſt breeze wafts them to the ſtream, where every fiſh that feed on flies are eagerly employed in devouring them until ſatiated, when the largeſt trouts retire to their holts, where they generally paſs ſome hours, conſequently little ſport can be expected with artificial flies, while the trout do ſo gorge themſelves with the natural ones. But on a windy day, which prevents them from appearing, being tender inſects, the artificial fly is generally uſed with ſucceſs. I have frequently tried it with moſt advantage after the natural ones have diſappeared, even ſo long as a fortnight.

It is a ſmall fly; the body is made with lead-color ſilk, a little waxed, the wings of a pea-hen or brown hen's feather, with a plover's top wrapped thrice around under them.

The DOWN FLY.

The laſt week in April, this beautiful ſmall fly appears, about twelve o'clock, and never remains above an hour each day; nearly white as ſnow, and ſeldom continues above a week. Its body is made with white-rabbit's fur, the wings, which are nearly upright, of any ſoft white feather, with a ſmall white hackle wrapped twice around under them.

This fly, from the ſhortneſs of its duration, might be conſidered beneath your notice, ſtill I muſt not omit it, as I never could find diverſion with any other, during the few minutes that it fluttered upon the water. From its delicate appearance, you may, perhaps, conclude it to be a tender inſect, and only to be uſed in mild weather; but this fly appears in greateſt numbers in the coldeſt days, which is evidently the beſt time to uſe it.

The ORANGE FLY.

Appears about the latter end of April, and

and continues until the end of July; the wings are made either with the feather of a field-fare's tail, or a dark dun hackle; the body, of orange-color filk. At its firſt appearance, is uſed with moſt ſucceſs from eight in the morning until two.

The BLACK GNAT.

Appears about the laſt week in April, and continues to the end of July; is uſed from one o'clock until the duſk of the evening. Its body is made of oſtrich's orl, ſhort and thick, the wings of the lighteſt part of a ſtarling's wing, which may be varied with equal ſucceſs, with a ſmall light dun hackle.

The HAWTHORN FLY.

Appears near the ſame time as the black gnat, but ſeldom continues above three weeks; muſt be uſed from ten o'clock until three: the body, which is long and ſlender, is made of an oſtrich's orl, the wings, of the paleſt part of a ſtarling's wing, with a plover's top wrapped thrice around under them.

The wings of this fly being diaphanous, gives you the advantage of uſing any light color feather you chuſe; I know a good angler who invariably uſes the pith of the ſecond quill of a gooſe's wing for them.

About this time the dun becomes a morning and evening fly, and ſhould be made of pale otter's, or hedge-hog's fur. In bright weather the marlo buz ſhould be varied from ſilver to gold twiſt, on a body made of peacock's orl. The cow-dung fly continues all the ſummer months, but are not worth your notice after the iron-blue fly makes its appearance.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER IX.

To ***** *******

Dear Sir,

In the months of May and June, almoſt any fly will raiſe a trout, as he is at this time in his higheſt condition, and, though naturally an eager feeding fiſh, he appears leſs timid now than at any other part of the ſeaſon. The great variety of inſects that at this time frequent the rivers, evidently encreaſes his appetite and contributes much to his ſtrength and courage; ſtill he clearly evinces a partiality to a few, which I ſhall ſelect: the firſt is, the

IRON-BLUE FLY.

Which appears about the middle of May, and continues nearly three weeks; is frequently ſeen in great numbers in cold ſtormy evenings, at which time only it muſt be uſed: the body is made

of

of mole's fur, the wings, of the feather of the hen blackbird's tail, with a ſhort dark dun hackle wrapped thrice around under them.

The WILLOW FLY.

Appears about the middle of May, is a good fly from eleven o'clock to four, until the green drake preſents itſelf; after which it is not to be depended on. Its head is ſo prominent as it flies, that the wings appear as though they were placed on the centre of its body, which is made of yellow camlet, ribbed with green ſilk, and a yellow hackle over it.

Having never ſeen a feather whoſe natural color had the leaſt reſemblance to the wings of this fly, I ſhall, for your choice, ſubjoin two methods of ſtaining them: Gather an handful of the flowers of crow-foot, which begin to bloſſom in May, be careful not to diſturb the farina; a lump of allum, the ſize of a pidgeon's egg, pounded fine, with two or three dozen of white cock's

cock's hackles; boil them together in rain water in an earthen pitcher until they become the color of the willow-bloſſom. Or, dilute nitrous acid with water in a glaſs, until it will but juſt effervesce with braſs filings, in which put the hackles, and in a few minutes you will obſerve them change color, which as ſoon as you diſcover, take them out, and plunge them into a ſolution of pearl aſhes, thinly diluted with water, in another tumbler: this will brighten the color that the acid made, and prevent the feathers being corroded by it. The acid alone will make the feathers a beautiful color, but unleſs it is corrected by an alkali, they will become too tender to be fit for uſe.

The ORL FLY.

Appears about the twentieth of May, continues to the end June, and may be uſed all hours of the day. Has four wings, which lie cloſe on its back; the body, which is rather large, muſt be made of that part of a peacock's

orl

orl that is not tinged with green, and a dark grizzle hackle over it.

The GREEN DRAKE.

Appears about the twenty-fifth of May, and continues near a month, it is uſed from nine o'clock in the morning until ſunſet. Upon ſmall ſtreams it is an excellent fly for bobbing, upon a hook No. 5 or 6. Its body, which is an inch long, is made of barber's ſilk, ribbed with a bittern's hackle, it has four wings, that ſtand nearly upright, they are a pale yellow, with a beautiful green tinge, which are made of a mallard's feather ſtained. It has a forked tail, which may with equal ſucceſs be omitted, but if you wiſh to be particular in imitating it, two fibres of the dark feather of a cock pheaſant's tail is the neareſt reſemblance I am acquainted with. When a bittern's hackle cannot be procured, the body muſt be ribbed with fine claret-color ſilk, and a pale ginger hackle wrapped thrice around under the wings.

Of

Of all the baits that I am acquainted with, this fly appears to be the trout's greateſt favorite, as from its firſt appearance in the morning, which is about eight o'clock, they eagerly watch it the whole day, ſeldom retiring to their holds as they do at other times, for when gorged to the throat they are not ſatisfied, but riſe as eagerly at it as when they firſt came on feed.

Various are the methods practiſed of ſtaining feathers for its wings, but the two beſt that I know I ſhall deſcribe for your choice: Scrape an handful of the inſide bark of the barbary tree, half an ounce of allum, powdered fine, and two or three dozen of mallard's grey feathers; boil them in rain water, in an earthen pitcher about an hour, and you will find them the color you wiſh. Or, take one ounce of turmeric, one ounce of allum, half an ounce of common ſtone blue, each pounded fine, boil them with the feathers, as above deſcribed, and it will produce the

the ſame color. It may prevent a miſtake to take out a feather frequently, and by dipping it in clean water you may watch the progreſs of the dye.

The GREY DRAKE.

Appears about a week after the green, and continues three weeks; it is not quite ſo large a fly as the latter: the body is made of white ſilk, ribbed with fine black ſilk; the wings, of the dark grey feather of the mallard widgeon, with a black cock's hackle wrapped thrice around under them, and has three long tails, which are nearly black. It is uſed with moſt ſucceſs in an afternoon, particularly after the green drake retires.

During the time the green and grey drakes are on the water, the marlobuz, orl, ſand, and orange flies may be uſed with ſucceſs in the mornings before they appear: and on ſtreams that are frequented by ſmall trout, almoſt all the day.

The

The light dun, and black gnat, are good flies from seven o'clock in the evening until dark.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER X.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

The month of June preſents us with many new flies, three of which are preciſely the color of ſome before deſcribed, I ſhall therefore, without troubling you with an unneceſſary addition of new names, proceed to deſcribe them firſt. Early in the month, about ten o'clock in the morning, appears one of the color and ſize of the gravel fly, and continues till one o'clock; another appears in bright evenings, the color and ſize of the camlet fly, which is often taken very eagerly when the the water is low and fine. The fern fly appears about the middle of June, and is the ſize and color of the ſand fly.

The

The OAK FLY.

Appears early in June, and continues about five weeks. It is a good fly, and may be uſed with ſucceſs all hours of the day. Being unqueſtionably the moſt difficult fly to imitate well, it provides you a wide field to diſplay your ingenuity.

The body is much paler at the head than the tail, and may be made with the ſmall hackle from a bittern's head, the wings, of the feather of a woodcock's back. When a bittern's hackle cannot be procured, great care is required to graduate the colors juſtly; it being at the head, pale yellow, under the wings, light brown, the middle of the body, orange, from thence it gradually becomes darker towards the tail, which is quite black. For legs, uſe a ginger hackle.

The GREEN GNAT.

Appears early in June, and is a good fly in bright mornings, on clear ſtreams.

It is very ſmall, and the body is made of green ſilk, with a ſmall black cock's hackle wrapped over it.

The WOODPECKER FLY.

Appears about the end of June, and continues near a month. Its wings are made of the pale green feather of a woodpecker's back; its body of the ſame, with a black cock's hackle wrapped twice around it.

This fly is principally uſed for grayling fiſhing, the ſeaſon for which is now commenced. Though a few will riſe ſoon after ſpawning, they ſeldom afford regular ſport till after Midſummer.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

To ***** *******

Dear Sir,

About the beginning of July there appears a fly about noon, and continues to the end of the ſeaſon, the ſize and color of the march brown.

The SHELL FLY.

Appears early in July, and continues to the end of the ſeaſon. It is uſed the whole day in cloudy weather, and is one of the beſt grayling flies known. The body is made of the lighteſt part of otter's fur; the wings of the pale yellow feather of a hen; that which is neareſt the color of cream is the beſt.

From the beginning of July to the end of Auguſt, two ſmall flies appear that are generally called

LADY COWS.

They are nearly the ſhape of one half of a ſplit pea. Though flies that the trout are very fond of, they have been ſtrangely overlooked by anglers.

1. The BROWN LADY FLY, is made of the dark part of otter's fur, mixed with the brown fur of a hare's ear, and a grizzle hackle over it, in forming it obſerve the ſhape of the natural one.

2. The BLACK LADY FLY, is a beautiful inſect, very ſmall, and of courſe only to be uſed when the water is low and fine. The body, which is jet black, is made with oſtrich's oil, with a ſmall bright red hackle over it.

The following proceſs, if carefully managed, will ſtain hackles a brilliant, and excellent color for this fly, and which will be found from their ſuperior brightneſs far preferable to any natural color: Melt a ſmall quantity of grained tin in a tobacco pipe, when fluxed pour it into cold

cold water. Put this metal into a vial, and pour upon it a ſufficiency of nitrous acid to diſſolve it, which will not require many minutes, when the effervescence ſubſides, add to this ſolution an equal quantity of rain water. Decoct brazil wood in vinegar, and put to it a ſmall lump of allum; ſtrain it, and put a few drops of the above ſolution to it: then put in ſome ſmall white hackles, and boil them with this mixture in an earthen pitcher till they have acquired a deep ſtain.

The YELLOW PALMER FLY.

Appears about the latter end of July, and continues to the end of September. Its body is made of yellow camlet, and a ginger hackle over it. On dull ſtreams where a large one is neceſſary, the body ſhould be ribbed with gold twiſt.

The SQUIRREL FLY.

Appears about the middle of Auguſt, and continues to the end of the ſeaſon. Its

Its body is made with the red fur of a ſquirrel, and ribbed with fine primroſe-color ſilk; the wings of a peahen's feather, with a grizzle hackle wrapped thrice around under them. On clear ſtreams, where a ſmall one is uſed, the hackle may be omitted.

The BLUE GNAT.

Appears about the middle of September, and continues until the end of October. Its body, which is ſlender, is made of water rat, or mole's fur, with a dark dun hackle over it.

The blue gnat is the lateſt fly I ever could find diverſion with, I ſhall therefore conclude this catalogue of trout and grayling flies with it, as trout after this time are not worth catching.

Having been careful, at the commencement of each month, to inſtruct you how to vary your flies according to the ſeaſon, it is alſo neceſſary to inform you, that the three firſt flies, (viz.) the blue dun,

dun, marlo buz, and the march brown, are as good flies from the latter end of Auguſt, to the end of the ſeaſon, as they were in March and April; and you may at this time find your ſport as regular with them.

In this catalogue there are a few uſeful flies that have been noticed by others, which, to omit, would on my part appear to doubt the exiſtence of, and conſequently tend to deprive you of the advantage which may be derived by uſing them; and was I to affect originality, by inventing new names for ſuch flies, I ſhould feel myſelf guilty of an unwarrantable act of duplicity; but if, by experience, you find that I have deſcribed a better method of imitating thoſe few, and have directed a readier method of providing materials for the purpoſe than has hitherto appeared, my wiſhes will be amply gratified.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER XII.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

My laſt letter concluded a catalogue of ſuch trout and grayling flies, that, if carefully obſerved, and proper attention be paid to the weather, and ſtate of the water, you will ſcarcely ever be diſappointed in a day's amuſement: ſtill there are many other flies and baits that, though I could not conſiſtent with my plan inſert there, yet muſt on no account be ommitted, which muſt form a SECOND CATALOGUE, and commence with

The RED FLY,

Which appears in February. Its wings are made of the red feather of a partridge's tail; the body of the red part of a ſquirrel's fur, with a ginger hackle wrapped twice around it.

This fly diſappears the firſt warm day in

March, conſequently is of little uſe to an angler who fiſhes for diverſion only.

As your preſent ſituation affords you an excellent opportunity of enjoying the pleaſure of ſalmon-fry fiſhing in the Vyrnwy, in March and April, the ſix following flies you will find worthy your notice. On hooks No. 10.

1. The body made of peacock's orl, and a mealy grey cock's hackle over it.

2. The body is made with ſilver twiſt, and a ſmall dun hackle.

3. The body of yellow camlet, ribbed with gold twiſt, and a ginger hackle over it.

4. The body made with equal quantities of the fur of a hare's neck and orange-color mohair, with the hackle from a grouſe's back.

5. Gold twiſt body, and a dark red cock's hackle over it.

6. The

6. The body of peacock's orl, with the bright ſtained red hackle over it.

The COD-BAIT.

With artificial wings. Is generally firſt uſed about the middle of March; and continues to the end of September. This natural bait muſt be uſed on the top of the water, like an artificial fly, an account of which will be given in a future letter, and muſt be managed thus: whip a pair of wings of a mallard's grey feather, upon a hook No. 5 or 6; a little below them a ſmall piece of braſs muſic wire muſt be whipped with the point inclined upwards, but nearly erect, to retain the bait, from which you muſt gently pinch the head, and a black gut will follow it; then through the aperture inſert your hook, which muſt go through the body to the tail, carefully draw it up the ſhank of the hook until the wire is covered, and then the bait is ready for uſe.

I acknowledge this to be a troubleſome

ſome method of angling, but can, with confidence aſſure you, no fiſh when on feed, that take flies, will refuſe it.

On dull ſtreams, the feather of a land-rail's wing or the red feather of a partridge's tail, is prefered to the grey feather; but after the green drake appears, a feather the color of its wings is more eagerly taken than either.

About the latter end of May, two inſects appear, of the ſpecies of *ſcarabæus*, one of which is generally called the caterpillar, or cock-chafer; the other, the black beetle, or devil's coach-horſe.

They are good baits for bobbing for chub, under buſhes that project over the ſides of rivers. The hook for the firſt ſhould be No. 1, for the latter No. 4. I do not adviſe you to attempt to imitate them, as you cannot poſſibly uſe a long line with equal advantage to bobbing with a ſhort one.

They rarely fly by day-light, but sleep on the pendant leaves of bushes, when a trifling agitation by the wind, or many other causes, disengage them, and dropping on the water in that torpid state, become an easy prey to every watchful fish.

It is not unusual with these baits to take large trout, as they are invited to those shady haunts at this season, to watch the green and grey drakes that sometimes float on the water in innumerable quantities, and the trout appear,

"As if increase of appetite had grown
"By what it fed on."

About this time two night flies are recommended by a late author, for the use of those amateurs, who, when disappointed in their day's diversion, resolve to repair it by night; but as I never possessed sufficient perseverence to try the experiment, will not pledge myself for their success, but quote a description of them merely

merely for your information, and adviſe you to leave their uſe to thoſe indefatigable heroes (if any ſuch there be) who can find amuſement in ſuch nocturnal recreation.

" The BROWN NIGHT FLY.

" He is made of the brown feather " of a hen, and the body of the ſame " color. This is properly a moth, which " flies by night only, and is to be uſed " (if you are inclined for night fiſhing) " in a dark gloomy night, after a warm " day. When you fiſh in this manner, " uſe a line about a yard longer than " the rod, and put a couple of maggots " at the point of the hook, which will " be of great advantage to the ſmelling " part. It will take fiſh both in ſtreams " and ſtanding waters, and you may " hear them riſe in as much perfection " as if you were fiſhing by day."

" They will continue to bite till day " break, if the night be gloomy and " cloudy; but if it be a moon-ſhining,

" or ſtar light night, they will not ſtir " at theſe flies, any more than they " will at the day-flies in a bright day.

" The WHITE NIGHT-FLY.

" This fly is, in my opinion, the " beſt of the two. He is made of the " white owl's feather, on account of the " ſoftneſs of it, upon a middle ſized " worm hook; the body of the ſame " color as the wings, and as big as a " very large wheat ſtraw. He is in per- " fection about the latter end of May, " and continues till the latter end of " June; when if you ſet out with an " intent of killing a diſh of fiſh in the " day, and fail of ſucceſs, you may be " ſure of taking them at night, if you " are ſo diſpoſed, and this fly is on the " water."

The BEE, and WASP,

Particularly the large humble bee, muſt not be overlooked, as they are good baits for chub in Auguſt and September. The living ones being ſo eaſily procured, renders

renders a deſcription of materials, when you wiſh to imitate them, unneceſſary.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER XIII.

To ***** *******

Dear Sir,

The Salmon being a powerful fish, requires great attention to the preparation of your tackle, as it must necessarily be made fine and strong. Your rod ought to be fifteen feet long: eight feet from the lower end should be made of Riga, or Christiana deal; or, American pitch pine, which are light, strong, and not liable to warp; but on no account trust to the common white deal, as it is too tender to resist the violence that is opposed to it when a fish is hooked.

A reel, or winch, is indispensible, and should be large enough to receive a line at least ninety yards long; the end of which must not be finer than eight hairs. The last two yards of the line should

ſhould be made of gut, or graſs, twiſted three fold. When the latter is uſed it muſt be put in cold water to ſoften, a quarter of an hour before it is twiſted. The greateſt care ſhould be taken in performing this operation, for if each part be not of equal length, and regularly twiſted, they cannot act together, conſequently the line will be ſo much weakened as to render it unequal to the ſtruggles of a large fiſh.

It will contribute much to the preſervation of your tackle to fix a ſwivel between the hair and gut, to prevent the line from twiſting or untwiſting; for, when a ſalmon is hooked, and half tired, the efforts he makes to diſengage himſelf are far more dangerous to your tackle than when he is firſt hooked.

When you angle for him below the ſurface, the directions which you will find given for minnow, and worm fiſhing for trout, are the beſt methods you can adopt for ſalmon fiſhing.

For

For fly-fiſhing, a hook No. 1, or 2, according to the ſtate of the water, or weight of the fiſh you expect, are good ſizes; the ſhanks muſt be near an inch long.

Before you begin to make your fly, whip that part of the link that the point of the ſhank reſts upon, twice over, and it will prevent its galling.

It is a great improvement to a fly of this ſize, to make four wings inſtead of two; but though I adviſe the number of wings to be doubled, I would not on any account be underſtood to direct the quantity to be increaſed; it being a fault too prevalent in making trout flies, to overload them with feather.

As a ſalmon is much more whimſical in his feeding than a trout, it is ſometimes impoſſible to make a fly too gay for him, therefore I ſhall confine myſelf to ſeven, which have been proved to be good ones, and leave the variation of their color to your own fancy.

The

The feaſon generally commences in April, therefore I ſhall begin with

The BROWN FLY.

Its wings are made with the long gold color feather of the cock pheaſant's tail; the body, of the fur of a hare's neck, mixed with one third of its quantity of the fine hair of a brown cow. In bright weather, gold twiſt is often added with ſucceſs, over which wrap a red cock's hackle. The feather of the tail of a copper-color turkey cock, is a tolerable ſubſtitute for the pheaſant's feather.

The BLUE FLY.

Its wings are made of the ſhaded feather of the hen pheaſant's tail; the body of peacock's orl, with a pale red haekle over it.

The KING's FISHER.

The wings of this fly are made with the feather of a heron's tail, or the tail of a blue turkey; the body, of the greeneſt part of a peacock's orl: that which

which is procured from about the eye of the feather is the beſt, over which wrap a feather of an heron's creſt, or a black cock's hackle.

The PRIME DUN.

The wing's are made with a light heron's feather, the body of hedge hog's fur, with a light dun hackle over it.

The GREAT PALMER.

The wings are made with the feather of a cock pheaſant's tail; the body, of peacock's orl, with a red hackle that is black at the roots, over it. This fly is often varied with gold, and ſometimes ſilver twiſt, with great ſucceſs.

The GOLDEN PHEASANT.

The wings are made with the feather of a cock pheaſant's tail; the body, of orange color ſilk, ribbed with peacock's orl, and a ginger hackle over it.

The GREY MALLARD.

The wings are made with the grey feather

feather of a mallard; the body, which is very ſlender, of equal quantities of white rabbit and hedge-hog's fur, well mixed, and a light grizzle cock's hackle over it.

As the ſeaſon for ſalmon fiſhing varies on different rivers, it is impoſſible to date the time of uſing each fly, with preciſion, eſpecially for a fiſh ſo unſteady in his feeding. Thoſe which I have enumerated are arranged in the order they make their appearance.

The brown fly appears with the commencement of the ſeaſon in April, and affords the moſt ſport till September, when the grey mallard appears, which is then the beſt fly to the end of the ſeaſon.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

LETTER.

LETTER XIV.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

Having compleated an account of all the flies within my knowledge, that are worth your attention, it now remains for me to direct the beſt method of making them. Though an art ſo ſimple in itſelf, it appears extremely complex to make one by the deſcription; and I am convinced that you would learn more on ſeeing a ſingle fly made by an expert artiſt, than in reading a volume on the ſubject; which has often led me to think, that the cuſtom of giving directions "would be "more honored in the breach than the "obſervance."

Having never ſeen this ſubject particulariſed to my ſatisfaction, I ſhall carefully deſcribe the different methods that

that I was taught by a very intelligent angler, near twenty years ſince, and what experience has convinced me I can derive no advantage by changing.

To MAKE an HACKLE.

Having ſelected your materials, cut off all the ſuperfluous parts of the hackle, ſo as to have no uſe for the ſciſſars after the fly is made, except to cut off the remaining part of the ſtem, and the ſilk; place the hook upon the gut, holding the upper end of the ſhank between the fore-finger and thumb of your left hand, faſten the end of the gut by three turns of the ſilk; then hold the hook by the bent, and whip it neatly up to the top of the ſhank, where you ſhould whip two turns around the gut alone, to prevent its galling. Place the hackle with the root end down the ſhank, and faſten it with two turns of the ſilk; next take the dubbing and whip it neatly down the ſhank, ſecuring it with one knot on the place you began; take hold of the point of the hackle, whip

it down the body until it is oppoſite the point of the hook, there faſten it, and your fly is complete.

When ſmall, or tender hackles are uſed, ſuch as partridge's or woodcock's, they may be whipped three or four times around the upper end of the ſhank, and there faſtened; after which dreſs the body down to its proper place, and faſten it. If an hackle is ſo ſhort that you cannot conveniently hold it, tie a piece of waxed ſilk to it.

To make a FLY with WINGS.

Whip your hook as before directed, lay the feather you have provided for the wings upon the ſhank, with the points towards the bent, the roots are conſequently upwards; faſten it on the top of the ſhank firmly by four or five turns of the ſilk; raiſe the feather from the ſhank, and divide it in two equal parts; then bring back between the wings, the root ends of the feather, and faſten them. Dreſs your dubbing to the proper length of the body, and faſten it.

Where

Where WINGS and HACKLE are uſed.

When the wings are ſecured, whip the root end of the hackle cloſe below them, then lap the dubbing one third the length of the body, hold the ſilk tight between the ſecond and third fingers, while you twiſt the hackle to that place, there faſten it, and then finiſh the body.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER XV.

To ***** ******.

Dear Sir,

Except the trout, the pike affords the angler more diverſion than any other fiſh; and the various methods that have been invented to take him, are ſufficient to convince you that the ingenuity of ſportſmen has been attentively employed in making him contribute his ſhare to their amuſement.

He is a powerful fiſh, whoſe ſtrength is only equaled by his rapacity, therefore you cannot provide a rod that is manageable, too ſtiff, nor a line, provided it is fine, too ſtrong for him.

Any ſmall fiſh from two to five ounces, may be uſed for a bait, ſuch as trout, ſamlet, gudgeon, roach, dace, bleak, pearch,

pearch, &c. &c. As he does not bite ſo eagerly ſoon after ſpawning, as when the ſummer is a little advanced, the beſt method to begin the ſeaſon with, is

SNAP FISHING.

(WITH A DEAD BAIT.)

Fix a ſtrong ſwivel (ſee plate, fig. III.) to your line with a ſpring loop at one end, to faſten the bottom link to, which muſt be made of gimp; to one end of which, whip a ſtrong hook whoſe bent is near an inch diameter; (fig. II.) to the other end whip three ſmall hooks triangularly, place the hook and triangle level with each other, then whip the top of the link ſo as to form a loop proper to put on the ſwivel, over which ſlide a cap of lead (fig. II.) at leaſt half an ounce weight. To bait it, thruſt the large hook through the mouth, and out between the eyes of the bait, again through the mouth, and out at the tail; then gently draw it to its proper place. By putting the hook twice through the mouth, you will find a loop formed

at the head of the bait, which will prevent it being drawn out of form by the reſiſtance of the water. The triangle will then hang looſe a little below the tail.

Another method of ſnap fiſhing, is, with four hooks (ſee figure IV.) The points of the two extreme hooks, ſhould not be more than three inches from each other. The upper hook ſhould be thruſt acroſs the bait's mouth, including both lips, and the loweſt paſſed through the narrow part near the tail, ſo that it is a little bent, or it will not ſpin, then with a piece of thread whip the middle pair to the bait's ſide.

In the above methods the pike requires to be ſtruck as ſoon as he takes the bait, but be careful not to ſtrike him with a ſlack line, for if you do you are almoſt ſure to loſe him. He ſhould be fiſhed for about midwater, and you need not throw your bait twice in the ſame place.

SNAP

SNAP FISHING,

(WITH A LIVE BAIT)

On large pools in a boat, is far from an unpleaſant method, as a party of four or five may amuſe themſelves without the leaſt inconvenience to each other.

The rod muſt be four yards long, and the line about five, lightly leaded, on which a cork float about two inches diameter muſt be fixed, with a hole through the centre, and a peg in it to keep the bait at its proper depth. One large hook for this method is ſufficient, whipped to gimp, with a ſwivel at the upper end of it. To bait which, introduce the hook under the back fin, which may be done with ſo little injury to the bait, that it will live many hours.

When a pike takes your bait the float generally diſappears, from which time allow him about a minute before you ſtrike. The beſt depth for this method is about midwater.

It may not be improper in this place to deſcribe the beſt ſituation for this amuſement. Fix on a place in deep water that is not within twenty yards of any weeds that grow to the ſurface; drive down two parallel rows of piles, at a diſtance wide enough to receive a boat, obſerving that the piles are not left ſo high as the boat's ſides, or they will be extremely troubleſome, by frequently entangling your lines. When the willow tree is full leaved, weave or plaſh its branches between the piles. This grove (as it is called) will entice the ſmall fiſh to ſport about it, which, together with the ſhade it affords, ſeems to invite the pike there both for food and ſhelter.

There is a double hook manufactured to uſe a live bait with, called a ſpring ſnap, that expands itſelf in the act of ſtriking a fiſh, which in my opinion is more a mechanical contrivance than an uſeful invention, I ſhall therefore ſay no more about it.

Snap

Snap fiſhing cannot be conſidered the ſafeſt method of catching pike, becauſe many are miſſed in ſtriking. It is only to be prefered to the dead gorge at that time when they have not recovered their appetites after ſpawning; conſequently I only recommend the practice of it to the latter end of May, after which time to the end of December no method excells the

DEAD GORGE,

Which is made with a large ſingle or double hook whipped to gimp, and well leaded on the ſhank (ſee fig. VII.) with a loop on the top of it to receive the ſwivel, which muſt be inſerted through the bait's mouth, and out at its tail, (as all fiſh ſwallow their baits head foremoſt.) Draw it gently down, until the mouth is at the bent of the hook, then place it in a proper poſition, and whip its tail firmly to the gimp.

When a pike takes the bait, make no reſiſtance, but permit him to go wherever

ever he chuſes to take it, for now it is that he challenges your patience moſt; as ſometimes he will remain a quarter of an hour before he gorges it; during which time, do not diſturb him, but wait until he moves again, which you will readily diſcover by the motion of the line; then wind it up until you feel him, when he muſt be ſtruck ſmartly, and you are ſure of him, if the tackle holds.

You ſhould be provided with a wire needle ſix inches long, with an open loop at one end, to bait the hooks, which may be carried in your book.

Laying BEAGLES, or FLOATERS,

Which, on large pools, affords ſtronger exerciſe, and greater variety of amuſement, than any other part of pool fiſhing.

The floater muſt be ſeven inches diameter, made of flat cork, or any light wood, turned round, with a groove in the

the edge large enough to receive a fine whipcord line, twelve yards long; or at leaſt three yards longer than the pool is deep. A ſmall peg, fixed in the centre, two inches long, with a notch cut in the end of it. A ſmall double hook, fixed to a braſs wire link, which is generally called a trimmer; to bait which, take a live fiſh, from two to four ounces, and with the point of the hook, make a ſmall inciſion in the ſkin on its ſide, near the gills, through which thruſt the wire, then carefully force it under the ſkin to the vent; draw the bait along it until the ſhank of the hook is covered; in which ſtate it will live twenty-four hours.

Faſten one end of the line ſecurely to the floater, and wind it around the edge of it, tie the other end to the loop in the wire, then faſten the line ſlightly in the notch of the peg, to prevent the bait running it out of the groove, leaving about four feet out for the bait to ſink with.

Put

Put it out on the windward ſide of the pool, and if not taken as it is blown acroſs, it muſt be returned again.

SALMON and TROUT TROWLING.

Commences in March, and is practiſed with good ſucceſs, all hours of the day, the whole ſeaſon, with any ſmall fry for a bait; but thoſe which are moſt prefered are, the loach and minnow.

From the middle of April to the end of Auguſt, the greateſt diverſion is found from three o'clock in the Afternoon, until it is dark, when the beſt fiſh are taken, particularly in deep ſtreams.

It requires a ſtrong rod, though not quite ſo ſtiff as what is uſed for pike fiſhing; the longer it is, the better, provided it be not too heavy. You cannot, with any pleaſure fiſh without a reel, as you meet with ſuch frequent occaſions to alter the length of the line.

About

About eighteen inches of ſtrong gut, or indian weed, ſhould be put to the end of the line, twiſted three fold; with a ſwivel, (fig. V.) to fix the bottom link upon, with four or five duck ſhot, ſplit, and faſtened on it.

To make the bottom links, there are two diſtinct methods; one is preciſely the ſame form of the firſt link which I have deſcribed for pike trolling, only varying the ſize of the hooks, (fig. VI.)

The other method is, to faſten with a knot, the link that the triangle is whipped to, about half an inch above the large hook, (fig. I.) which muſt be thruſt in the bait's mouth once only, and out at its tail.

As it has nothing now to prevent its being waſhed down the ſhank of the hook, by the force of the ſtream, one hook of the triangle muſt be fixed in the bait's ſide, which, when drawn to its proper place, will retain it ſecurely.

The laſt method I recommend to you in clear ſtreams, becauſe the link is ſingle; whereas in the firſt, it is unavoidably double.

There are many other methods practiſed, but I am convinced, when once you become expert in either of theſe, you will not derive the leaſt advantage from changing them.

It is not unuſual to take large chub, and ſmall pike, by this method of angling, in ſtreams that thoſe fiſhes frequent.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER.

LETTER XVI.

To ***** *******

Dear Sir,

Worms are the moſt natural baits, under water, for almoſt every fiſh, inſtances having occured even of pike taking them. Muſt be preſerved and cleanſed in moderately dry moſs, in a cool place in the ſummer, and out of the reach of froſt in the winter. The more moſs you make uſe of, and oftener it is changed, the longer they will live, as they cannot bear being expoſed to the air. The largeſt is the

LOB, or DEW WORM.

Which is found by turning up ſoil, particularly in old gardens, fallow fields, and early in the morning may be taken upon the ſurface of graſs fields. When, by crawling about, thoſe that

meet with a cow, or horſe dung, will creep under it, and there remain as long as it contains moiſture enough to protect them from the intenſe heat; which ſituation changes their color, particularly about the head, to a dark purple; which appearance has given birth to an opinion among anglers, that it is a diſtinct ſpecies, and they have conſequently given it the name of the peacock worm.

It is a good bait for ſalmon, trout, pearch, chub, and eels, particularly in muddy water.

The RED WORM,

Is found in all loamy ſoils; may be gathered by following a plow, turning up garden ſoil, and under boards, bricks, ſlates, tiles, ſtones, &c. &c. that have lain undiſturbed a ſhort time.

This worm has ſeveral names, that vary with its color, which different ſituations will alter. It is a good bait in

in clear water ſingly, but when the water is diſcolored, two are preferable, particularly for trout.

When two worms are uſed, the hook ſhould be thruſt through the knot of that which is to remain uppermoſt, and when forced through only one third of its body, muſt be drawn to the top of the ſhank until the wire is covered, and it will remain ſecure; then treat the ſecond in the ſame manner, obſerving to reverſe the end that you begin at, and the knot being held by the barb, they will remain ſufficiently firm.

The BRANDLING, or GILT-TAIL,

Is a beautiful little worm, dark at the head, becoming gradually paler towards the tail; which is decorated with bright yellow circles, that diſtinguiſh it from all other reptiles of this claſs; and from whence the name gilt-tail is derived.

They are found in old dunghills, old

hot beds, eſpecially where tanner's bark has been uſed, and often in tanner's bark alone, provided it has lain ſtill a ſufficient time to rot.

From the beginning of May, to the middle of September, it is the beſt worm that can be uſed; and what few fiſh, when on feed, will refuſe. It is therefore unneceſſary to dwell longer on this part of the ſubject, by amuſing you with an uſeleſs liſt of worthleſs reptiles, when the few that are ſelected have been found by experience, to anſwer every purpoſe.

To prepare your tackle for worm fiſhing in ſtreams; a ſmall piece of muſic wire ſhould be whipped to the upper end of the ſhank of the hook, to keep the bait in a proper poſition. No preciſe direction can be given for leading your line, as it depends ſo much on its length, the depth of the ſtream, and the rapidity of the current; the bait ſhould ſink quick, and fiſh near the bottom;

bottom. If your line is over-leaded, you will find it extremely troubleſome, as the hook will frequently be entangled with whatever it meets at the bottom, ſuch as ſtones, roots of trees, buſhes, &c. &c.

The ſize of the hook and bait, muſt be governed by the brightneſs of the ſtream: for trout fiſhing I do not recommend a hook larger than No. 2, or ſmaller than No. 5; but for ſalmon, pearch, and large chub, I prefer a hook No. 1.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER

LETTER XVII.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

COD-BAIT FISHING,

On the top of the water, has been deſcribed in a former letter.

It is a good bait about midwater, and near the bottom in clear ſtreams, on a hook No. 8, whipped to fine gut, lightly ſhotted. Many anglers in preparing their hooks for cod-bait fiſhing, prefer the ſhank being leaded, to a ſhot on the line, which is a method I cannot approve, being but a tender bait, the lead renders it almoſt impoſſible to be drawn neatly over the ſhank. When uſed in ſtill water, a ſmall float is neceſſary.

There are a great variety of theſe inſects, and many of the beſt flies that fre-

frequent the rivers are produced from them. Some are found among the the weeds in ſtanding waters, which are generally tinged green, incloſed in a very rough ſhell; but that which is moſt uſeful to an angler, is found in ſtony brooks, or gravelly rivulets, cloſely adhering to any ſolid ſubſtance it finds at the bottom; though ſometimes among the looſe gravel, with the *theca*, or huſk, around them, and regularly covered with ſand, or very fine gravel.

When taken out of the water, they may be preſerved a month, by putting them in a woollen bag, with, or without moſs, upon a cool floor. If the bag ſhould become too dry, care muſt be taken not to uſe too much water to damp it again, as theſe inſects cannot endure their native element, after they have been taken from it four days; ſtill they muſt not be expoſed to the other extreme.

MAGGOT

MAGGOT FISHING,

Commences as ſoon as the froſt diſappears in the ſpring, and is a good bait in open weather, every month in the year.

Maggots are produced from all kinds of animal fleſh, which may be hung in a remote place, and under it put a tub with a little bran or dry ſand in, (the latter of theſe I prefer, provided the earth, or loam is waſhed from it); and in a few days you will find a plentiful ſupply of baits; a ſucceſſion of which will continue near a month. When the carrion will not produce more, replace it immediately with freſh, as a maggot in the hot months, will become a fly in three weeks after its firſt appearance.

It is uſed for the ſame purpoſes as the cod-bait, and is eagerly taken by all kinds of fiſh that take ſmall baits.

Maggots generated in October, will live

live through the winter, at which time grayling, chub, carp, tench, pearch, roach, and dace, are in perfection, and may be enticed to any part of a pond to feed, by ſuſpending a piece of carrion at the end of a pole, over the ſpot that you wiſh the fiſhes to frequent.

It is not unuſual to bait particular places with worms, maggots, grains, ſtewed malt, clay balls, clotted blood, &c. but that method is not only troubleſome, but you are liable to be deceived by the neglect of ſervants; admitting their punctuality, the fiſh would naturally become fonder of a ſpot where they can peaceably enjoy their food, which is continually dropping to them, than where they are often diſturbed by being fed at ſtated intervals.

Thoſe anglers whoſe ſituation is contiguous to a tallow chandler's, may at almoſt any time, provide themſelves with plenty of theſe baits,

The

The WASP GRUB.

In July, Auguſt, and September, from a waſp's neſt you may provide yourſelf plentifully with good baits for every kind of fiſh that will take maggots and cod-baits. In procuring which, it will be neceſſary to guard yourſelf againſt the reſentment of the furious inhabitants, by introducing a lighted gunpowder ſquib into the neſt, about the duſk of evening, then ſtop the hole cloſe, and let it remain in that ſtate half an hour, when you may dig out the comb without danger of being ſtung; it muſt then be baked before a moderate fire, with a tin bonnet behind it, which makes the baits tough, and blackens their ends.

The COW-DUNG BAIT.

Is found from the beginning of June, to the end of Auguſt, among the droppings from cattle in dry paſtures; it far excels either the cod-bait or maggot, during its ſhort ſtay, and muſt be uſed for the ſame purpoſes.

In

In ſhape, it reſembles a maggot, but its color is much brighter; it is extremely tough, conſequently a laſting bait.

CABBAGE WORMS,

Are of different colors, ſome of them are green, ſome are grey, and others ſpeckled, varying in color according to the ſpecies that produced them.

They are uſeful baits in the hot months, for trout, chub, carp, tench, roach, and dace; are procured by ſhaking oak, and aſh trees, hazle buſhes, and upon cabbage leaves; muſt be uſed on the top, upon ſtreams, and mid-water in pools. Being tender baits, require ſome attention to fix them neatly on the hook.

The changes which this inſect experiences in its gradation from the egg to the butterfly, are ſo numerous, that you muſt be made acquainted with them, as

the aurelia itſelf is not ſurpaſſed by any winter bait.

The cabbage worm is produced from an egg dropped by the butterfly, from which it paſſes into the aurelia or chriſalis ſtate, wherein it remains immoveably fixed to one ſpot during the winter; while in that ſtate it takes no ſuſtenance. Its covering in this middle ſtate, between the caterpillar and butter fly, is cartilaginous; its figure, conical. The ſucceeding ſpring this included inſect has acquired a ſufficient degree of ſtrength to burſt its cell; when, ſplitting its wintry coat from one end to the other, a perfect butterfly inſtantly appears.

The GRASS HOPPER.

Is generally found about the mowing ſeaſon, and continues until it is deſtroyed by froſty nights. It is eagerly taken by almoſt every fiſh in clear ſtreams about midwater, on a hook No. 6, with fine gut, and one ſmall ſhot.

The

The CRICKET.

The common houſe cricket is uſed in the ſame manner, and for the ſame purpoſes, as the graſs hopper, with this advantage, it is readily procured in winter and ſpring.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

R. S.

LETTER XVIII.

To ***** ******

Dear Sir,

Almoſt every experienced angler, who uſes paſte, has his peculiar method of preparing it; to deſcribe every one which I have ſeen uſed, would far exceed the bounds of my plan; therefore I ſhall only mention a few, that I have proved to be good ones, and what you may with ſafety rely on.

SALMON PASTE.

Take one pound of female ſalmon ſpawn, about September or October, boil it about fifteen minutes, beat it in a mortar until ſufficiently mixed, with an ounce of ſalt, and a quarter of an ounce of ſalt-petre, carefully pick out the membrane as you find it diſengaged;

gaged. When it is beat to a proper conſiſtence, put it into cups, or gallipots, over which tie a piece of bladder cloſe, and it will keep good many months.

SHRIMP PASTE.

Is prepared preciſely by the ſame method as ſalmon paſte, obſerving to ſeparate the ſolid part from the ſhell, before it is put into the mortar.

PASTE, to catch CHUB and CARP in the WINTER.

Beat ſtrong cheſhire cheeſe, mixed with cotton wool, to paſte; if it is too moiſt, temper it with wheat flour; if too dry, moiſten it with honey. The bait ſhould be formed about the ſize and ſhape of a ſmall acorn.

PASTE to catch PIKE BAITS.

Mix four ounces of fine wheat flour with a little cotton wool; the whites of two eggs, and a very ſmall quantity of vermillion, or red lead.

This paſte ſhould not be made above one day before it is uſed.

MALT BAIT,

Is not excelled by any of the above paſtes, for ſmall fiſh, if proper care be taken in preparing it.

To a quart of ground malt, put two quarts of water; place it in a ſituation where it will juſt ſimmer; in about four hours the water is generally abſorbed by the malt, when the ſkin ſeperates, and then it is fit for uſe.

It muſt not be prepared long before it is uſed, as in a few hours it will become ſour.

Having now, I truſt, diſcharged my promiſe, I ſhall cloſe this ſubject with a few aphoriſms, the efficacy of which I have practically proved.

1. Indian weed, and ſilk-worm gut, are beſt preſerved in a piece of bladder or oiled paper.

2. Hooks

2. Hooks may be protected from ruſt by the ſame method.—A ſmall ſlice of camphor put to your fur, and a little ground pepper among your feathers, will prevent either being deſtroyed by moths or other vermin.

3. If, while angling, you obſerve a fiſh riſe at a natural fly, caſt your's as near to the ſpot as poſſible, without ſuffering it to remain ſtill, for by keeping it in motion, the fiſh that ſee it are rendered eager to take it, and the deception cannot be ſo eaſily diſcovered.

4. You ſeldom need caſt your fly twice on one place—if a trout is diſpoſed to take your bait, he generally riſes the inſtant that he diſcovers it.

5. The beſt baits that can be uſed in a morning, for trout, before the flies appear, are the minnow, loach, and worm; particularly after a light night.

6. If

6. If a ſhower, or any accident, ſwells the joints of your rod, ſo as to prevent their being drawn aſunder without ſtraining them, apply a lighted candle to the upper part of the ferrules, until they are warmed—the joints will then readily ſeperate.

7. A South, or Weſt wind, with a cloudy atmoſphere, is always favorable to an angler's ſport—a North, or Eaſt wind, with a bright ſky, the reverſe.

8. Trout fiſhing, with a worm, is practiſed with the greateſt ſucceſs at the commencement of a flood—and fly fiſhing, as ſoon as the water is become clear enough.

9. If ever you find the trout riſe ſhort, and refuſe your bait, be aſſured that it is not exactly the color of the fly they are in ſearch of; for ſuch are their diſcriminating powers, that if the bait varies but a ſhade from the natural fly, they will, when the water is clear

refuſe

refuſe it; from which, you will readily infer, that it is neceſſary an angler ſhould apply a ſmall portion of his leaſure hours to the ſtudy of nature before he can poſſeſs a claim to ſuperiority in this art—ſuch an amuſement, is in itſelf, inſtructive, rational, and not conſidered beneath the notice of the beſt informed: yet, by a little attention to the inſtructions that may be found in theſe letters, you may very ſoon become proficient enough to enſure yourſelf a day's ſucceſs, when the elements are not unfavorable; the directions they contain being all deduced from practiſe.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble Servant,

ROBERT SALTER.

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ERRATA.

Page 22, line 23, for *is a*, read
—— 48, —— 19, for *arife*, read

RARE

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